

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for at least one of charging and powering a non-hub peripheral device, the method comprising

5 installing software in the peripheral device that enables the peripheral device to be at least one of charged and powered by a computer;

connecting the peripheral device to the computer;

using the software to send a first signal to the computer that identifies the peripheral device as a hub;

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the peripheral device receiving the at least one of power and charge from the computer.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the step of connecting, using the
15 software to send a second signal to the computer that indicates that a different peripheral device is connected to the hub, wherein the peripheral device identified as a hub receives the at least one of power and charge from the computer in response to the first and second signals.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), a telephone, a digital camera, a modem, a keyboard, a mouse, a joystick, a CD-ROM drive, a tape drive, a floppy drive, a digital scanner, a printer, a data glove and a digitizer.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting includes attaching a cable having a universal serial bus (USB) compliant plug and port combination from the peripheral device to the computer.

10 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with the USB standard.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer includes a hub driver that complies with the USB standard.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein the hub driver is a WindowsTM based hub driver.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of using the software to send a first signal includes identifying the peripheral device to the computer as a zero-port hub.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of using the software to send a first signal includes identifying the peripheral device to the computer as a one-port hub.
- 5 10. The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with a universal serial bus (USB) standard.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the computer includes a WindowsTM based hub driver that complies with the USB standard.
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12. A method for at least one of charging and powering a peripheral device, the method comprising
- installing software in the peripheral device that enables the peripheral device to be at least one of charged and powered by a computer;
- 15 connecting the peripheral device to the computer;
- using the software to send a first signal to the computer that identifies the peripheral device as a hub;

using the software to send a second signal to the computer that indicates that one more peripheral device is connected to the peripheral device identified as a hub than is actually connected to the peripheral device identified as a hub; and

the peripheral device identified as a hub receiving the at least one of power and

5 charge from the computer.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the peripheral device identified as a hub is one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), a telephone, a digital camera, a modem, a keyboard, a mouse, a joystick, a CD-ROM drive, a tape drive, a floppy drive, a digital
10 scanner, a printer, a data glove and a digitizer.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of connecting includes attaching a cable having a universal serial bus (USB) compliant plug and port combination from the peripheral device to the computer.

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15. The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with the USB standard.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the computer includes a hub driver that complies with the USB standard.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the hub driver is a WindowsTM based hub driver.

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18. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of using the software to send a first signal includes identifying the peripheral device to the computer as a zero-port hub.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of using the software to send a first signal includes identifying the peripheral device to the computer as a one-port hub.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with a universal serial bus (USB) standard.

15 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the computer includes a WindowsTM based hub driver that complies with the USB standard.

22. A system for at least one of charging and powering a non-hub peripheral device, the system comprising
- a connector for connecting the device to the computer;
 - a software module in the peripheral device that enables the peripheral device to
- 5 be at least one of charged and powered by a computer, the software module including a first signal module for sending a first signal to the computer that identifies the peripheral device as a hub; and
- a power-charge receptor in the peripheral device for the at least one of powering or charging the peripheral device from the computer.

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23. The system of claim 22, wherein the software module further includes a second signal module for sending a second signal to the computer that indicates that a different peripheral device is connected to the hub.
- 15 24. The system of claim 22, wherein the peripheral device is one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), a telephone, a digital camera, a modem, a keyboard, a mouse, a joystick, a CD-ROM drive, a tape drive, a floppy drive, a digital scanner, a printer, a data glove and a digitizer.

25. The system of claim 22, wherein the connector includes a cable having a universal serial bus (USB) compliant plug and port combination.

26. The system of claim 22, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with
5 the USB standard.

27. The system of claim 22, wherein the computer includes a hub driver that complies with the USB standard.

10 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the hub driver is a WindowsTM based hub driver.

29. The system of claim 22, wherein the first signal module identifies the peripheral device to the computer as a zero-port hub.

15 30. The system of claim 22, wherein the first signal modules identifies the peripheral device to the computer as a one-port hub.

31. The system of claim 23, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with a universal serial bus (USB) standard.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the computer includes a WindowsTM based hub
5 driver that complies with the USB standard.

33. A system for at least one of charging and powering a peripheral device, the system comprising

a connector for connecting the device to the computer;

10 a software module in the peripheral device that enables the peripheral device to be at least one of charged and powered by a computer, the software module including

a first signal module for sending a first signal to the computer that identifies the peripheral device as a hub;

15 a second signal module for sending a second signal to the computer that indicates that one more peripheral device is connected to the peripheral device identified as a hub than is actually connected to the peripheral device identified as a hub; and

a power-charge receptor for the at least one of powering and charging the peripheral device identified as a hub from the computer.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the peripheral device is one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), a telephone, a digital camera, a modem, a keyboard, a mouse, a joystick, a CD-ROM drive, a tape drive, a floppy drive, a digital scanner, a printer, a data glove and a digitizer.

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35. The system of claim 33, wherein the connector includes a cable having a universal serial bus (USB) compliant plug and port combination.

10 36. The system of claim 33, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with the USB standard.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the computer includes a hub driver that complies with the USB standard.

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38. The system of claim 37, wherein the hub driver is a WindowsTM based hub driver.

39. The system of claim 33, wherein the first signal module identifies the peripheral device to the computer as a zero-port hub.
40. The system of claim 33, wherein the first signal modules identifies the peripheral device to the computer as a one-port hub.
41. The system of claim 34, wherein the first and second signals are compliant with a universal serial bus (USB) standard.
- 10 42. The system of claim 41, wherein the computer includes a WindowsTM based hub driver that complies with the USB standard.